significant finds was a semicircular construction which probably marks out a burial area; on the exterior was a child's cranium, on the interior the cranium of an adult, and there were traces of burning over the entire area.

Theopetra Cave (Kalambaka). *Eleftherotypia* and *Ethnos* (21/05/08) cite a report by N. Kyparissi-Apostolika (Director, EPSNE) of thermoluminescence dating of 2 childrens' footprints from the cave, which places human activity here prior to 135,000 BP. The date, and the Mousterian technique of the stone tools in the analogous level, suggest that the first occupants were *Homo Sapiens neanderthalensis.* Study of carbonized fruits, seeds, cereals and pulses from the water sieving of Pal levels proceeds.

EPIRUS

Nomos of Preveza
(33rd EPCA: 18th EBA)

Nicopolis
Publications: K. Zachos, D. Kalpakis, C. Kappa and D. Kyrkou, *ΝΙΚΟΠΟΛΗ. Αποκαλύπτοντας την πόλη της νίκης του Αυγούστου* (Athens, Scientific Committee of Nicopolis 2008); F. Kefallonitou and K. Gerolymnou, *The Basilica of Bishop Doumetios in Early Christian Nicopolis* (Athens, Scientific Committee of Nicopolis 2008; in Greek and English).

Philippiada. P.L. Vocotopoulos (*DeltChAE* 39 [2008], 73–80) reconstructs the founder's wall-paintings in the peristyle of the Church of the Panayia Pantanassa on the basis of fragments recovered at the W end of the S portico, and G. Velenis (*DeltChAE* 39 [2008], 81–86) presents the inscriptions on them. Two rulers are depicted (a man named Komnenos Doukas and his wife, named Anna Komnenodoukene Palaiologina), being crowned by the Virgin holding Christ in her arms, along with two princes: these are likely Nikephoros I and his sons Thomas (proclaimed despot in spring 1294) and Thamar (who was married in summer 1294), thus providing a likely date for the painting.

Nomos of Thesprotia
(32nd EPCA: 8th EBA)

Thesprotia Expedition. B. Forsén (Finnish Institute) reports on the 5th field season, which consisted of continued geo-archaeological work, further palynological sampling from Lake Kalodiki at Morphi and trial excavations at 3 sites. Coring was also undertaken in Lake Acherousia to learn more about its general environmental development.

The first site where trial trenches were opened, PS 12, lies on the lowermost E slope of the Liminari hill in the village of Sevasto. Probes here in 2007 revealed mainly FNeo and EBA pottery, but also some LNeo and ENeo–MNeo sherds. The aim was therefore to explore the ENeo and MNeo presence, and to estimate the site size. In trench D2 more ENeo 'impresso' sherds were found, although no ENeo–MNeo layer. The early sherds were found mixed with FNeo and EBA pottery and spindle-whorls. In the hope of finding undisturbed ENeo to MNeo remains, probe H was located on a small terrace uphill. This produced remains of a dramatic erosion phase containing large stones mixed with bone, pottery and some roof tiles. The finds are mostly historical in date, perhaps Ar or Cl, and indicate the existence of a settlement of this date somewhere higher upslope.

The main trench was located N-S through what is believed to be the centre of the site. Initially it was dug in 5 1m x 2m sequences, separated by a couple of metres, but, later, one of the tests was enlarged when remains of a rudimentary wall were found. The wall, which consists of 2 courses of stones to a *h.* of 0.2–0.3m, was exposed to a *l.* of 9m without uncovering corners. No floor level was found next to the wall. Pottery of the FNeo and EBA, as well as some of MBA and LBA date, was found just above and around it. Preliminary pottery analysis indicates some parallels with the FNeo and EBA repertoires at Doliana near Ioannina, Servia in Macedonia, Pefkakia in Thessaly and, to some extent, Lerna and Franchthi in the Argolid. Most of the EBA parallels are EHII. Three C^{14} samples from trenches A (excavated in 2007) and D date to EHII, whereas the 2 samples taken next to the wall date to the MBA and LBA. In order to study the size of PS 12, soil samples were taken in its immediate surroundings. Preliminary results indicate that the site is much larger than previously thought, perhaps close to 100m x 100m.

The 2nd site excavated was Ag. Donatos, Zervochori (PS 25), a small hill fortified around 300 BC. Investigation focused on the ordinary house walls inside the fortification. On the basis of intensive surface survey these seemed to be mostly ERom (*opus incertum*), although some pieces looked older (possibly Hel). Four trenches were opened, revealing almost exclusively ERom (1st–2nd Ct AD) finds. By combining the *opus incertum* walls visible above the surface with those found in the trial trenches, the outlines of a large building, built on 2 terraces that open to the S, are seen. The building is at least 140m x 30m, although it remains unclear where it ends towards the W. Due to heavy erosion, especially around the Chapel of Ag. Donatos, the building is badly preserved and most of the trenches contained collapsed and mixed layers. Part of the original concrete floor (*cocciopesto*) was found only in one trench. It is clear that the building once was of high status, as shown by fragments of wall-painting (panels in different colours) and a few palmette antefixes (**Fig. 87**). Probably it was a villa rustica



87. Thesprotia Expedition: antefix from the ERom villa at Agios Donatos, Zervochori.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400001216 Published online by Cambridge University Press

founded within the abandoned EHel fortress at some stage during the reign of Augustus or Tiberius. No finds date later than the ERom period, except for a grave ca. 10m N of the Chapel of Ag. Donatos. The burial, 0.2m below the surface, was placed in a simple cist of 1–2 courses of rounded stones. No grave gifts were found with the skeleton, which probably belonged to a young woman. Single human bones from other individuals were found close to the chapel, some even on the surface. Obviously, there was a small cemetery next to the 17th Ct chapel, most likely contemporary with it.

At Kioteza, Agora (PS 34), a small EHel fortification ca. 1km from Ag. Donatos was investigated to gain a better picture of its structure and date. Two small trenches were opened, one in the only tower of the fortification, the other at the probable gate. In the tower the rubble fill was encountered ca. 0.2m below the surface. The trench located at the presumed gate produced very few finds, but supports the assumption that there was a gate here, some 1.15–1.2m *w.* and protected by indented traces on both sides.

Publication: B. Forsén (ed.), *Thesprotia Expedition* I. *Towards a Regional History* (Helsinki, Finnish Institute at Athens 2009).

Nomos of Ioannina
(12th EPCA: 8th EBA)

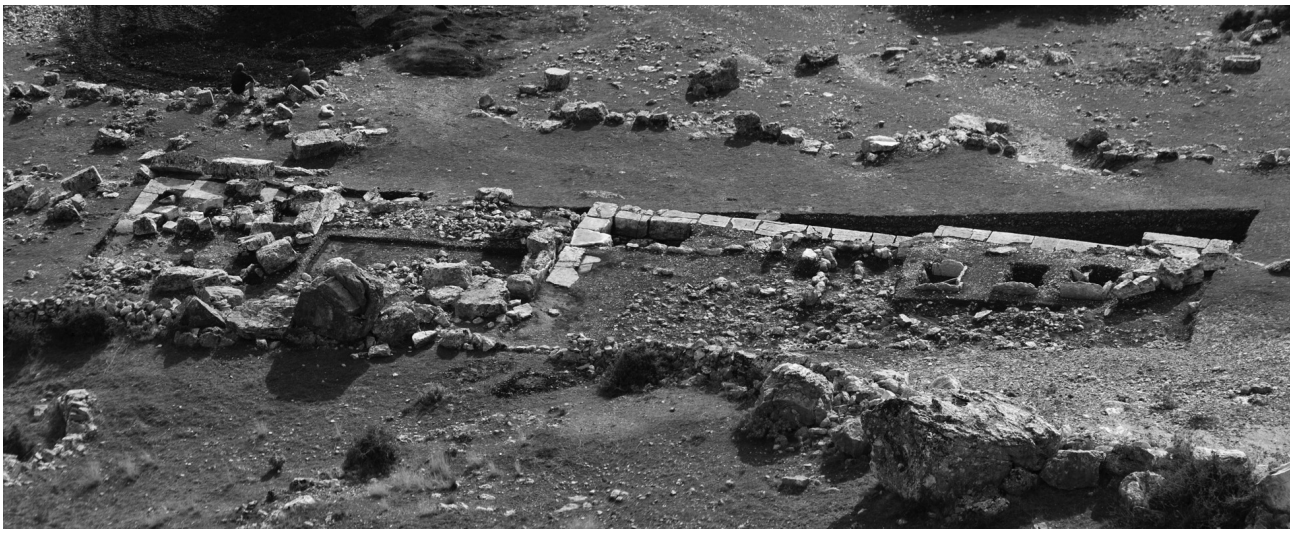
Ellinika, Kopani. C. Kleitsas (12th EPCA), E. Kotjabopoulou and A. Panatsi (Archaeological Institute for Epirotic Studies) report on the first season of excavation at the site of Ellinika, on the SE flanks of Mt Olytsika (anc. Tomaros) at an elevation of 550masl.

Positioned along a possible anc. mountain route, the site commands a panoramic view of the complex valley network that ultimately leads from the Ionian coast to the oracular sanctuary of Dodona. A number of fortified citadels, as yet unexcavated, are scattered close by (for example, Kalogeritsa – Theriakision, Ag. Georgios Kopanis, Mirodaphni Peston). Visible architectural remains, along with plundered Hel cist graves, were first reported here by I. Vokotopoulou (*ADelt* 23 [1968], B 292), but no systematic exploration was undertaken at that time.

The principal aim was to explore the extent and character of the remains and establish the chronology of their use(s). A total area of some 350m^2 was systematically investigated. All deposits were dry sieved. The outlines of at least 3 structures were revealed, aligned and juxtaposed along an E-W axis (**Fig. 88**). The largest is a Π-shaped burial enclosure. Its façade faces S and is 16.5m *l.* as currently revealed. The 2 sides are probably different in length, the E side measuring 5.4m. Worked blocks of local limestone, with signs of advanced erosion, were used for the construction. The façade is preserved to a *h.* of 4 courses. Three limestone cist graves, all plundered, were excavated in the W part of the interior (**Fig. 89**). The E part of the interior appears to have been modified at a later date, probably for non-funerary purposes. Another structure built in a similar way, perhaps another burial enclosure of smaller dimensions, was partially investigated. Owing to the concentration of large fallen blocks towards the inside of the enclosure, only the surface was cleaned, and a single visible cist grave excavated. The area between the aforementioned enclosures was also investigated. On present evidence, it seems that building materials and/or spolia from the enclosures were reused to demarcate an activity space of some kind. Further E of the structures mentioned above, 2 more plundered graves were cleaned.

The construction technique both of the enclosures and of the 6 graves investigated, in conjunction with the scanty pottery and other artefacts recovered, points to their initial close chronological association in EHel times. The site probably served, perhaps intermittently and/or in part, as a burial complex until the LRom period, to judge from 8 coins found in one of the graves inside the largest enclosure. However, the large quantity of domestic handmade and wheelmade pottery, and the significant amount of animal bone found within the fill of the 2 enclosures and the area in between, suggest that at various times the limestone structures served non-funerary purposes.

The burial enclosures at Ellinika form a rare example of this type of funerary monument in the interior of Epirus. The custom is most often associated with coastal cities such as Ambrakia, Leukas and Anaktorio. The continuing collaborative project will also aim to identify the organized settlement(s) associated with this cemetery.



88. Ellinika, Kopani: general view of the 2008 excavations, looking S.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400001216 Published online by Cambridge University Press



89. Ellinika, Kopani: part of the Π-shaped burial enclosure with 3 cist graves.

WESTERN MACEDONIA

Nomos of Grevena
(30th EPCA: 17th EBA)

Pindos. N. Efstratiou (*Egnatia* 12 [2008], 45–63) summarizes (with full bibliography) trends in data collected in a survey conducted since 2002, focused around the mod. villages of Samarina, Smixi, Avdella, Perichori, Polyneri, Philippaii and Panorama in the SW mountain zone of the Nomos of Grevena (see *AR* 51 [2004–2005], 68; *AR* 54 [2007–2008], 62). A high (but unspecified) number of MPal sites has been identified; these always lie above 1,600masl and often above 2,000masl (the highest site found in 2008 is close to 2,012masl), often on mountain ridges (well above the tree line) and always in open-air locations close to sources of water and sometimes also flint. Many sites with MPal lithics are above the moraine deposits of the last glacial. Excavation was conducted at 5 sites identified in the survey. Attention is drawn to the association of MPal lithic technology with Neo and BA (MBA) pottery at certain sites.

Spilaio, Monastery of the Dormition
Publication: A.S. Petkos, *Conservation of the Catholicon of the Monastery of the Dormition at Spilaio Grevena* (Veria, Ministry of Culture 2008).

Nomos of Kastoria
(29th EPCA: 16th EBA)

Dispilio. S.I. Chatzitoulousis (*Egnatia* 12 [2008], 65–85 publishes the waterlogged wood remains from the Neo settlement, examining the species used, the location of woodworking, the evidence of toolmarks for the nature of woodworking techniques and the purposes for which the wood was used.

The new biennial periodical, *Anaskamma*, of which volumes 1 and 2 (2008) have so far been published, is substantially devoted to reports of the Dispilio excavations. The journal's website, from which articles can be downloaded, is www.anaskamma.wordpress.com.

Pentavryso. A. Laftsidis publishes (*Egnatia* 12 [2008], 145–77) a potter's kiln located 1.8km from the mod. village of Pentavryso and 800m from mod. Avgi, immediately N of the road between these 2 villages and only 200m from the PH settlement of Avgi. On the hill immediately NE of the kiln lies a known Ar–EHel cemetery, with 2 more cemeteries in the neighbouring hills. The kiln was discovered in 1996 (*ADelt* 51 [1996], B2, 543) and systematically excavated in 2004. Sherds were scattered over a wider area, and it is possible that a further kiln and workshop installations remain to be discovered.

The kiln was a 2-storeyed construction, with an underground furnace preserved almost intact and a firing chamber almost certainly above it, although this is now completely lost. The stomion is half-preserved, but only a few burnt bricks remain of the eschara, none *in situ.* The kiln is cut into the natural soil, is oriented NW-SE and its dimensions are 2.1m *l.* x 1.8m *w.* x 1.8m maximum preserved *h.* It has rounded corners, being more pear-shaped than rectangular. The furnace walls show some (surprisingly limited) exposure to high temperatures: in places they preserve traces of a clay lining. The support column for the eschara (0.8m *l.* x 0.7m *w.* x 0.36m maximum *h.*) is preserved in the centre of the furnace chamber (placing the kiln in Hasaki Type 1a). The support is made of handmade, sundried brick for the most part, with moulded bricks forming the straight sides. The stomion is protected by 2 flanking walls. No trace of the vaulted roof survives: two severely burnt masses of clay found nearby surely come from the kiln and may be part of the roof. A large quantity of mud-bricks, of different dimensions but with a curving profile, likely come from one or 2 courses of insulation of the chamber.

The fill in the chamber contained a large quantity of sherds, mostly of domestic plainwares in 9 different shapes (oinochoai, ladles, amphorae, flour bins, pithoi and pithoid vessels, basins, hydriae, cups and a strainer), but also cooking pots, bg and red-glazed wares. Parts of 3 kantharoi, 1 bolsal, 2 one-handled skyphoi, 1 deep skyphos and 2 uncharacterizable skyphoi were found. On the basis that these vessels are local products, the clays represented are described macroscopically, as is the technique of burnishing used on the plainwares and decoration with plastic bands and incision. The kiln structure itself cannot be used as a dating criterion. Dating rests on the pottery, and can only be given within the broad limits of the end of the 5th to the end of the 3rd Ct BC, although it is unlikely that the structure could have withstood use for more than 2–3 generations within that period. Archaeomagnetic analysis of samples of the kiln fabric indicates a date of 250–200 BC. After the kiln fell out of use, it was likely used as a dump for the waste of the workshop.

Nomos of Pella
(17th EPCA: 11th EBA)

Pella. *Eleftherotypia* and *Kathimerini* (31/03/09) cite a report by M. Lilibaki-Akamati (Director, 17th EPCA) of the discovery of a potter's workshop at some distance from the main commercial centre of the city in the agora. The workshop, which remained in use from the last quarter of the 4th Ct until ca. 200 BC, is a square complex with a central paved courtyard containing a well and the base of an altar, surrounded by porticoes which have rooms leading off them. Kilns and storage areas were found, as well as a system of tanks for the purification of clay, thus providing important evidence for the technological processes employed. In addition, moulds for vessels, luxurious domestic equipment, fragments of figurines, and silver and bronze coins were found.

Kathimerini (31/03/09) cites a report by I. Akamatis (Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki) of the discovery of the public archive of the city. Hundreds of seals and sealings from papyrus documents have been found, along with a gold stater, pens and ink holders, and raw materials for the production, sealing and storage of documents. The public archive did not

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0570608400001216 Published online by Cambridge University Press